

people **farming**

Three organic farm walks in the region

Details of the 2010 Teagasc Organic Farm Walks were revealed this week, with farm walks taking place in Rooskey, Glinsk and Ballinasloe.

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ciarán Cuffe this week encouraged farmers to attend one or more of the Teagasc Organic Farm Walks which run from June until 15 September.

Minister Cuffe said the Tea-

gasc Farm Walks offer farmers the chance to learn first hand about the practicalities of organic farming. "Having the opportunity to discuss all related topics with the host farmer, Teagasc experts, Department Officials and representatives from organic certification bodies is a chance not to be missed. This year, Teagasc have incorporated specific themes into such farm walks, such as composting and clover,

which will be of benefit not only to farmers considering the organic option for the first time but also to existing organic farmers. I would encourage more farmers to attend the remaining upcoming organic farm walks."

On Tuesday, July 6th at 2 pm a farm walk will take place at Kearns Organic Growers, Drumardly, Rooskey, a vegetable producing organic farm.

Poultry, pigs, sheep and cat-

tle will be on view when a farm walk takes place on the organic farm of Jimmy Barlow at Glinsk, Co. Galway on Thursday 15th July at 2 pm.

The final farm walk of the series will take place on the farm of Pdraig Fahy and Una Ní Bhroin at Beechlawn, Ballinasloe on Wednesday, 15th September at 2 pm, which specializes in horticulture crops and direct sales.



Mr. Michael Silke, Chairman, IFA Flooding & Waterway Management Committee, along with members of Roscommon & Leitrim IFA and officials of the Office of Public Works on a tour of the River Shannon to point out the issues affecting flooding in the Shannon Catchment Area.

Sheep sector set for recovery

Speaking at the All-Ireland Sheep Shearing Championships held recently in Portlaoise, IFA President John Bryan said there is a renewed level of confidence emerging in the sheep sector and provided the increase in lamb prices is maintained the sector can recover and grow at farm level.

John Bryan said to date this year lamb prices are running ten to 15 percent ahead of last year. He said with the increase in the value of lamb skins and the change in sterling, this price increase must be sustained. Higher prices are essential to restore profitability to producers.

John Bryan said the sheep sector involves 30,000 producers at farm level, nine major processing plants and has an output value of over €250m of which exports are worth over €170m. The main export markets

are France, the UK, Germany and Spain.

The IFA President said protecting the Single Farm Payment in the CAP 2013 negotiations is an absolute priority for the IFA and the Association will fight an all-out campaign to secure the right result for farmers.

IFA National Sheep Committee Chairman James Murphy said lamb prices should remain strong on the back of very scarce supplies. He said disposals are back 160,000 head to date this year and running 8,000 to 10,000 head per week below last year's levels. He said the allocation of an additional €500,000 in Bord Bia promotional funding will help tackle the challenging lamb consumption issues on the domestic market.

James Murphy said the €18m of unused CAP funds secured by IFA for the sheep sector earlier this

year is a major boost for producers. He said the payment is worth €10 per ewe to most producers.

The IFA sheep farmers' leader said it is vitally important that the Minister for Agriculture Brendan Smith and his Department keep the impact of the new tagging arrangements including EID to a minimum in order to allow the sheep sector to recover and grow from a decade of contraction.

On wool, James Murphy said the price prospects are much more positive this year. He said some of the recent sales in Bradford had been cancelled because of a scarcity of product. The Bradford wool price indicator has moved up to 120p/kg sterling, equivalent to 140c/kg. James Murphy said based on the strong market returns, Irish farmers should be demanding between 90c and €1 per kg for clean quality wool.

mart round-up

Castlereau

600 cattle on offer with a good trade reported from all rings. The weanling trade in particular was particularly lively with fancy prices paid for the top quality export type lots. Prices for heifer bullocks and dry cows are holding well despite a drop in numbers offered for sale. Bullocks: Ch 485 kgs €980; Sim 490 kgs €880; Lim 520 kgs €1,000; Ch 510 kgs €945; B Blue 570 kgs €1,100; Lim 620 kgs €1,115. Heifers: Lim 395 kgs €755; Ch 390 kgs €732; Ch 430 kgs €850; Ch 685 kgs €1,140; Lim 580 kgs €1,035; Ch 580 kgs €1,055. Dry cows: AA 580 kgs €830; Ch 645 kgs €965; AA 640 kgs €975; AA 590 kgs €790; blue 620 kgs €875; BI Her 550 kgs €770. Cows with calves at foot made from €700 to €1570 per head. Springers made from €700 to €910 per head. Calves: Fr bull €100; Sim bull €372; Ch bull €370; Her bull €180; Her heifer €155; Lim heifer €155; Her bull €175. Weanling bulls: B blue 270 kgs €790; Ch 270 kgs €650; Ch 390 kgs €970; B

blue 390 kgs € 940; Ch 445 kgs €960. Weanling heifers: Ch 270 kgs €590; Sim 250 kgs €500; Ch 360 kgs €765; Ch 330 kgs €690; Lim 410 kgs €775.

Mountbellew

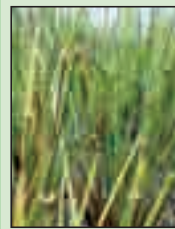
Cattle: There was a real good trade for the smaller number of cattle on offer at the sale at Mountbellew Mart on Thursday last, June 10th. The recent growth of grass had many farmers around the ring who were more than anxious for quality store cattle. A complete clearance of stock resulted. Store heifers made up to €405 with their weight. Store bullocks made up to €380 with their weight. Bullocks: Lim X 350 kgs €705; Lim X 320 kgs €675; Ch X 250 kgs €560; Heifers: Ch X 370 kgs €645; Ch X 350 kgs €660; Sim X 370 kgs €700; Ch X 460 kgs €745. Weanlings: Heifers made up to €330 with their weight. Bulls made over €400 with their weight for nice lots. Large number of continental store cattle and weanlings required weekly.

Sheep: Similar number of sheep on offer to previous week. Spring lambs met with firm trade and increased demand for fleshy and heavy lambs. Stag ewes met with a good trade. Heavier ewes slightly easier to previous week, however lighter ewes were stronger trade. Quality lots of ewes with lambs at foot met with brisk trade. Lambs: 12 lambs at 45 kgs €102.50; eight lambs at 42.5 kgs €93; ten lambs at 48 kgs €108.50; seven lambs at 39 kgs €85; one lamb at 51 kgs €114; 14 lambs at 46.5 kgs €108.50; 12 lambs at 41 kgs €90. Stag ewes: Lighter ewes met with increased demand with heavier ewes slightly easier trade to previous week. Prices ranged from €70 to €130. Ewes with lambs at foot: One ewe hogget with single lamb at foot €170; one first crop ewe with single lamb at foot €170; one second crop ewe with two lambs at foot €184; one second crop ewe with single lamb at foot €154; two first crop ewes with three lambs at foot €180; two ewe hoggets with two lambs at foot €120.

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New dimension to Castlereau Show

Preparations are progressing well for the 2010 Castlereau Agricultural Trade & Craft Show and with the publication of this year's Show Schedule of Classes organisers are moving up a gear in their preparations for a great day out for town and country alike on the 2nd of August.

In addition to a substantially increased prize fund this year's list of classes features a new dimension across all areas of the event. The Show Committee are planning a new focus in the cattle classes to reflect the current trends in the beef sector. The horse classes will also reflect current new thinking in assessing the quality of bloodstock with the introduction of a new unique competition.

In the home baking, arts and crafts and dog show there will be a range of new classes that will enable exhibitors to compete on a national level also. The Schedule of Classes for the 2010 Castlereau Agricultural Trade & Craft Show is now available at the following outlets in Castlereau: Paschal Fitzmaurice's 'Market Fresh' at Main Street, Castlereau Mart Office and Lorraine Campbell at the Roscommon Women's Network office in The Mill, Castlereau or by contacting the Show Secretary Edmund Hester on (086) 3816898.

Final Charolais sale

A satisfactory turnout in Carrick-on-Shannon recently saw 59 of the 88 Charolais bulls on offer selling at an average price of €2,100. Three Charolais heifers sold at an average of €1,300, while 16 Limousin bulls sold to average €1,600. Ten animals were exported.

Among the top prices for Charolais bulls were: €4,500 for Lisnagre Douser, sired by Jupiter and sold by Tony McDermott, Strokestown. €2,800 for Rattigan Evan, sired by Burradon Talisman and bred by David Rattigan, Main Street, Elphin, Co Roscommon.

Limousin prices: €1,800 for Castlerock Emperor, sired by Rocky and sold by Michael Tarpey, Carrow, Elphin. €1,800 for Clooneen Danny, a son of Mas Du Clo and sold by Thomas McDermott, Cloneen, Frenchpark.

The Midland and Western Livestock Improvement Society will hold its final sale of pedigree bulls and heifers on Saturday 19th June. Catalogues available from L McGowan at (086) 3883112.

Limousin sale in Roscommon

The final spring sale for the Irish Limousin Cattle Society final took place recently in Roscommon. Around 60 bulls were on offer at the sale, where prices ranged from an average of €1,865 to the top price of €3,700.

The supreme male champion, Crillaune Dakota, a Ronick Hawk son with a five star suckler beef value, was sold for the top price of €3,700 to Mary Gately of Curraghboy, Athlone. Other leading prices included €2,300 for Sheemore Elvis, bought by Pdraig Hallinan, Drum, Athlone, €2,150 paid by Simon Carty of Ballygar for Curran Dexter bred by Patrick McKeon, Ballyvary, and €2,000 for Ballinascrew Deco, sold to William Tully, Knockcroghery.

The top price of €2,600 in heifers was received by Clew Bay Celina, the champion heifer, in calf to Milbrook Tanko. €2,400 was paid by PJ Condrón, Cloverhill, for a Gamin heifer Mount Scott Delta, in-calf to Neuf. The average price paid for heifers was €1,950, an increase of €493 on the same sale last year, and achieved a 50 percent clearance, while bulls achieved a 49 percent clearance.